

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009**

**HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**200 MIDDLE ROAD**

**EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE  
SUBJECT TO A VOTE 7:00p.m. Regular Session**

**I. Call to Order**

**The first May meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m.**

**Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Susan Records, Robert Durant, Mary Ellen Winters, and Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon Mr. Martin was absent.**

**II. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.**

**III. Public Comments – There were no public comments.**

**IV. Approval of Minutes-April 21, 2009, Budget Work Session of April 20, and Executive Session 1-27, 4-4-09. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the above meetings with a correction in the April 21st meeting.**

## **V. Announcements and Recognitions**

**a. The following Cole French students were recognized for participating individually in the National French Contest. They competed with 63 students from 12 different school districts across RI in the Level I test: Caitlyn Mason, 1st place in RI; Alice Palmer, 2nd place in RI, Sam Greene, 4th place in RI; Alexandra Fugere, 5th place in RI; Gwen Luvara, 8th place in RI; Arlene Sit, 11th place in RI; and Kayla Olson, 18th place in RI.**

**b. Richard Ackerman, Supreme Court Decision regarding Irreparable Harm**

**Attorney Ackerman addressed the Committee about the status of a labor issue concerning a teacher strike. He asked the Superior Court Judge on behalf of the School Committee if he would enjoin the strike without a hearing. They said they would review the area in law. The matter has not been corrected and Mr. Ackerman said there is some interest with the court. He feels the only real reason for postponing the hearing is for unions to pressure them. The court will review and may not change the law. Mrs. Guliano noted that the previous School Committee wanted to have Mr. Ackerman go forward. Mr. Ackerman stated that the School Committee should be congratulated on that. He also noted that the RIFT has asked to file a brief that the law should remain as is. It will probably be heard in the fall. Joanne Leach asked who would be paying for this. Mr. Meyers responded that we will pay this out of our legal budget. Donna Hayes stated that the public needs to know how much money is being spent.**

## **VI. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Meyers noted that he received a memo from the Department of Education, Office of Instruction, concerning the grades that were tested for NECAP. He added that all schools made adequate yearly progress and continues to show improvement every year. Three schools were commended for the sixth year in a row.

Mr. Meyers gave out the revised curriculum document and noted that over the next six years we can see what the curriculum cycle will look like. Next year, Science, Foreign Language and Health will be revised.

A Teacher of the Month document was given out to School Committee. The selection process will be done through the School Committee's Personnel Subcommittee and can begin anytime.

A Cole Awareness Session was held tonight. There will be another Awareness Session on May 7th.

Transition planning for the new Superintendent will take place and Mr. Meyers will spend time with the new person to go over current items and town government services. Donna Hayes would like to add the EGEA to the list of items for the new superintendent.

Technology: Janet Novack will come up with a draft of the technology study to maximize the technology we now have. The report will be given to the school Committee by the June 16th

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meeting. The Town Council has proposed looking at sharing of services. We are pulling together specs for the High School Language Lab.

VII. Action Items

### **a. Resignation**

**i. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the resignation of Erin Oda Osman, Art teacher at Eldredge and Hanaford, effective 6-24-09. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **b. Appointment**

**i. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Joseph Amato, Intramural Wrestling Coach at Cole Middle School, from March 09 to May 09. The Committee felt that the hourly rate was too high but that is the scale for intramurals coaches.**

### **c. Financial Report**

#### **i. Status UCOA**

**Mr. Meyers has not heard from the Town Finance Department on this issue and is uncertain if the town Council is aware that it is a crucial issue. He would like assurances from the Town it will be done by the July 1st deadline. He also added that it is about the vendor client relationship with Munis and we are not the client. Mr. Meyers feels the hold up is that the Town first moved to an updated version of Munis. Mrs. Gifford stated that the Town Auditor's recommendation is that there is a lack of training in the finance department. She feels we should advocate for cross training with Munis. Mrs. Dillon stated that the stimulus money will not come if we don't have a uniform chart of accounts. Mrs. Records asked if there was a structure when we consolidated.**

#### **ii. Budget 2010**

Mr. Durant spoke about the savings we can realize in the 2010 budget. Mr. Meyers stated that stabilization dollars will be available and can be used for Social Studies and Spelling textbooks, among other items. These funds will get us within \$38,000 of where we need to be. That amount probably can be absorbed by speaking to the Department Heads. We will be taking one game off the high school sports schedule. We will also reduce the paraprofessionals by three. State Aid is still up in the air. Mrs. Gifford would like to have a discussion on the CPT Program. She also asked if we could fund the language lab renovations with the stabilization money. Mr. Meyers feels we should not revise the budget at this time. Mrs. Gifford asked what the procedure is for the School Committee to get to the budget they approved for 2010. Mrs. Guliano stated that after the Financial Town Meeting we may know the amount but it may not be until the middle of July. Mrs. Gifford would like to see the list of savings. Mrs. Palumbo doesn't feel comfortable using stabilization funds for the CPT Program if we cut middle school sports which will affect more kids. Mrs. Gifford stated that stabilization funds are only temporary but it may be the only way to save programs.

d. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted

unanimously to approve the out-of-state field trip to Mystic Aquarium in CT for Cole Middle School 7th graders on May 19th.

## **IX. Discussion**

### **a. Superintendent Search Process**

The next step is to have another focus group meeting. The report

from NESDEC will come to us soon. The next step is to have the search and review committee look at the applicants. Interviews will start the week of May 18th or 25th.

**b. Fields Update**

Mr. Durant asked about the insurance cost if there is a pond. If so, this will result in a change in the budget and it needs to come back to the Committee.

**c. Employee Survey**

Mr. Meyers stated that each school should be listed on the drop down menu at the end of the survey. Joanne Leach noted that some people would want to possibly be identified to get their points across and some will not want to be identified.

**X. School Committee Concerns**

Technology Update, CPT, Budget and UCOA are concerns.

**XI. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations. There was no Executive Session.**

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**XII. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted to adjournment at 9:05p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**